

55. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein said subsequent instructions are held in a first buffer and said new instructions are held in a second buffer and wherein said effect branch instruction causes the contents of said second buffer to be copied into said first buffer.

56. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein a first instruction fetcher fetches said subsequent instructions and a second instruction fetcher fetches said new instructions, said effect branch instruction selecting which of said first and second instruction fetchers supplies instructions for execution.

57. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein the branch instruction identifies as the target location the address from which the first instruction of a string of new instructions is to be fetched.

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed June 12, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

Claims 1-36 were previously pending. By this amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 1-36. As a result, claims 38-57 are now pending, with claims 38 and 52 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

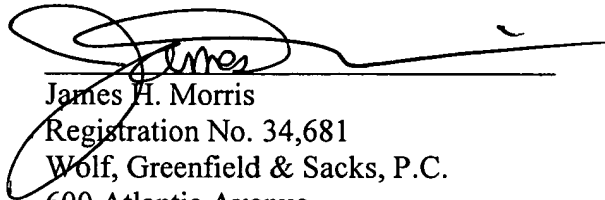
If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee

occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to deposit account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted

Andrew C. STURGES and Nathan M. SIDWELL

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James", is written over a horizontal line.

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